

December 8, 2009.

To Whom It May Concern:

As a black male resident of Lansing, Michigan I represent the interesting dichotomy with people's perception of gun owners and the reality of responsible gun owners that have great desire to stay within the confines of the law. If one were to use the news as their sole source for knowledge about firearms then they would be sadly mistaken and remain ignorant of the reality of responsible gun owners that respect not only their firearms but also respect the law.

I have had my CPL since the end of 2006. Before that time I had sporadic dealings with firearms. Most of what I knew was from hearsay and misinformation. The more I learned about guns the more the mystery went away, the more the idea of violence went away. I began to learn that having and using firearms as a hobby or sport could be a very enjoyable past time comparable to golfing. And yes, I do carry my gun responsibly for protection. I would like to emphasize that it is done as an insurance to be able to protect myself in a time of need. I truly hope that I would never be forced to have to make a decision to pull my firearm in a time of dire need.

I greatly appreciate the fact that I can exercise my right to carry. I also appreciate the privilege to conceal carry as well. However, at times it does come with some frustration. I have found myself confused with the idea that I as a person that wishes to stay within the law must surrender myself to the mercy of a criminal that has no care for the law or life. I am a Lansing Community College student that takes night classes. Why must I leave my insurance or protection in my locked car leaving me to be at the mercy of a criminal that may have a weapon that could potentially do me great bodily harm or kill me. Why must a woman that has earned the right to carry a firearm must be forced to be able to protect herself from an assailant or rapists because she is trying to better her life. History as shown us that crime or violence can and will happen anywhere. I do my best to stay away from situations that "trouble" may happen. Going to school should not force me to feel uncomfortable about my safety. There are only so many security and police officers to go around. In a time of need I want to know that I can help protect myself and those around me. And furthermore with looming cuts to the police force I would hate to think the bad guys could find this to be a good time to create more havoc on our society. I have been told criminals are lazy and opportunist and they just might see budget cuts to the police force a perfect opportunity to take advantage of the citizens of this community.

I am grateful that I have choices in how to protect myself, my property and my loved ones. I am concerned about certain restrictions with carrying a firearm. I am fully in support of the changes that would happen if House Bill 747 passes and is put into law. It would make me feel safer in my everyday life.

Thank you for your time,



Michael N. Brown

NRA Certified Firearm and Home Safety Trainer
CPL Holder.

December 7, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Michelle Lawson. I have lived in Lansing, Michigan all of my thirty-one years. All of those years I have also been anti-gun. The very sight of guns nauseated me. I didn't even want my son to play with toy guns.

My stance on guns is changing. My home has been burglarized. More and more frequently I read about another mass shooting somewhere. I have a child I need to be able to protect. I want the right to protect and be protected from the "bad guys" who so often have guns. I feel safer when I am with people who I know are lawfully carrying.

What happens when the response time between calling 911 and actually getting help isn't fast enough? I called 911 after realizing my home was broken into and it took almost an hour for the police to arrive. The burglar was no longer in my home, but who knew that? What if that wasn't the case? I would have been at their mercy. The police cannot be everywhere all the time.

I have come to appreciate knowing that there are responsible gun-carrying citizens who can protect me if necessary. I am considering getting licensed to carry a gun myself.

Thank you,


Michelle M. Lawson

7 December 2009

The Honorable Wayne Kuipers, State Senator
Senate Judiciary Committee
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
Re: Support for Senate Bill No. 747 A bill to amend 1927 PA 372, entitled

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 747.

My name is Autumn Brianne Lloyd. I am a 30-year-old mother of three girls. I am currently a full-time mom.

As a 5'2" female college student taking night and weekend classes at Michigan State University and Lansing Community College, personal safety was a concern. After concealed carry became an option, I took the classes and gained my CPL only to find that I could not carry where I needed to. During my time in college the number of violent crimes in dorm-rooms and around campus increased including gun shots into parking lots in the heart of campus and the violent death of a professor in a classroom one weekend morning. These events are a concern for me as I consider returning to college to further my education and return to the workforce.

Individuals with CPLs have been trained in the proper use of a weapon. I do not carry a gun so I can shoot a criminal. I carry so I will NOT become a victim. I have let my CPL lapse because of the limitations on where I can actually carry. But when I did carry, I walked with confidence and a sense of security. That alone may have prevented crimes against my person, simply because I did not look like a victim.

As a rather short woman, what chance do I have walking from a classroom at 9 o'clock at night against a 6'2" male. I would much rather brandish a gun than become another violent crime statistic. I have a friend that was assaulted in the parking lot of a school here in Lansing. She was picking her daughter up from a gymnastics lesson at that school. The criminal took her purse and left, but then came back and proceeded to attack her, beating her and slamming her head to the ground. Situations like this are the reasons I started carrying.

I urge you to support Senate Bill No. 747 as an added protection for the law-abiding citizens of Michigan and a prevention against violent crimes at college campuses across the state. As a woman and a mother, I fully support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Autumn Brianne Lloyd
212 N. Francis Ave.
Lansing, MI 48912